

# ROBERT WEST

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Computer Science Department  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305

west@cs.stanford.edu  
<http://cs.stanford.edu/~west>  
(415) 395-6433

## Personal

*Date of birth:* June 9, 1982  
*Place of birth:* Ingolstadt, Germany  
*Citizenship:* Germany

## Research areas

Data science, data mining, network analysis, machine learning, natural language processing

## Education

**Stanford University**, Stanford, Calif., USA 9/2010 – present  
Ph.D. in Computer Science  
*Advisor:* Prof. Jure Leskovec

**McGill University**, Montréal, Qué., Canada 1/2008 – 6/2010  
M.Sc. in Computer Science (Dean's Honour List)  
*Advisor:* Prof. Joelle Pineau

**Technische Universität München**, Munich, Germany 10/2002 – 7/2007  
*Diplom* in Computer Science (*summa cum laude*)  
Minor in Latin Philology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany  
*Advisor:* Prof. Alois Knoll

## Professional experience

**Wikimedia Foundation**, San Francisco, Calif., USA 11/2014 – present  
*Research Fellow*

**Microsoft Research**, Redmond, Wash., USA 7/2014 – 9/2014  
*Research Intern* with Eric Horvitz

**Google**, Mountain View, Calif., USA 6/2013 – 9/2013  
*Engineering Intern* with Evgeniy Gabrilovich and Kevin Murphy

**Microsoft Research**, Redmond, Wash., USA 6/2012 – 9/2012  
*Research Intern* with Eric Horvitz and Ryan White

**Yahoo! Research**, Barcelona, Spain 6/2011 – 9/2011  
*Research Intern* with Ingmar Weber and Carlos Castillo

## Awards

9th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'15) 5/2015  
**First prize at ICWSM Science Slam:** "Unfun.me: Destroying Jokes to Learn about Humor"

22nd International World Wide Web Conference (WWW'13) 5/2013  
**Best paper award:** "No Country for Old Members: User Lifecycle and Linguistic Change in Online Communities"

**Dean's Honour List**, McGill University 6/2010

21st International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI'09) 7/2009  
**Award for best educational video** at IJCAI Video Competition: "Reinforcement Learning by Example"

## Fellowships

Facebook Graduate Fellowship (tuition + US\$30,000 p.a.) 9/2013 – 8/2014  
Hewlett-Packard Stanford Graduate Fellowship (tuition + US\$35,000 p.a.) 9/2012 – 9/2015

	Facebook Graduate Fellowship Finalist (US\$500)	2/2012
	Stanford School of Engineering Fellowship (US\$52,000 p.a.)	9/2010 – 6/2011
	SIGIR Student Travel Grant (US\$1,300)	7/2013
	University of Washington First-Year Fellowship (US\$19,000)	declined
	McGill University Graduate Fellowship (C\$20,000 p.a.)	1/2008 – 5/2010
	Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Wittmann Fellowship (€1,700 p.a.)	10/2002 – 7/2007
<b>Advising &amp; mentoring</b>	Ashwin Paranjape, M.Sc. student, Stanford University	9/2014 – present
	Srijan Kumar, Ph.D. student, University of Maryland (summer visitor, Stanford)	7/2015 – 10/2015
	Grace Muzny, Ph.D. student, Stanford University (rotation project)	3/2015 – 6/2015
	Janice Lan, M.Sc. student, Stanford University	1/2015 – 4/2015
	Victor Zhong, M.Sc. student, Stanford University	9/2014 – 12/2014
	Aju Scaria, M.Sc. student, Stanford University	9/2012 – 1/2013
	Rose Philip, M.Sc. student, Stanford University	9/2012 – 1/2013
<b>Teaching experience</b>	Lecture, <i>Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory's Outreach Summer (SAILORS)</i>	Summer 2015
	Guest lecture, Stanford: <i>Minds and Machines (SYMSYS-100)</i>	Fall 2014
	Head teaching assistant, Stanford: <i>Mining of Massive Data Sets (COMP-246)</i>	Winter 2014
	Head teaching assistant, Stanford: <i>Social &amp; Inform. Network Analysis (COMP-224W)</i>	Fall 2012
	Teaching assistant, McGill: <i>Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (COMP-424)</i>	Winter 2010
	Teaching assistant, McGill: <i>Data Structures and Algorithms (COMP-251)</i>	Winter 2009
<b>Invited talks</b>	GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne, Germany	9/2015
	NetSci'15 Symposium on Language and Network Science, Zaragoza, Spain	6/2015
	Wikimedia Research Showcase, San Francisco, Calif., USA	3/2015
	Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, Saarbrücken, Germany	11/2014
	Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar	10/2014
	University of Ottawa Text Analysis and Machine Learning Group, Ottawa, Ont., Canada	9/2010
<b>Community service</b>	<b>Co-founder and co-organizer:</b> <a href="#">Wiki-ICWSM</a> — <i>Workshop on Wikipedia, a Social Media: Research Challenges and Opportunities</i> , co-located with the <i>9th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)</i> , 2015 <b>Senior program committee:</b> <i>ICWSM — International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media</i> , 2016 <b>Program committee:</b> <i>KDD — ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining</i> , 2014, 2015, 2016 <i>WSDM — ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining</i> , 2014, 2016 <i>ICWSM — International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media</i> , 2013, 2014, 2015 <i>WWW — International World Wide Web Conference</i> , 2015 <i>SocialNLP — International Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Social Media</i> , 2016 <i>OpenSym/WikiSym — International Symposium on Wikis and Open Collaboration</i> , 2013, 2014, 2016 <i>PIKM — Workshop for PhD Students at CIKM</i> , 2014 <i>WIMS — International Conference on Web Intelligence, Mining, and Semantics</i> , 2011 <b>Journal reviewer:</b> <i>TKDE — IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering</i> , 2015 <i>TCSS — IEEE Transactions on Computational Social Systems</i> , 2015	
<b>Skills</b>	<b>Programming:</b> Java, Hadoop, Pig, R, Matlab, Perl, Python, C++, C#, OCaml, PHP, SQL, JavaScript <b>Languages:</b> German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate), Portuguese (basic), Latin	
<b>Referees</b>	Jure Leskovec, Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department, Stanford University Eric Horvitz, Technical Fellow & Managing Director, Microsoft Research Christopher Potts, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University Dan Jurafsky, Professor, Departments of Linguistics & Computer Science, Stanford University	

## Publications    Articles in peer-reviewed journals

- [23] Exploiting Social Network Structure for Person-to-Person Sentiment Analysis  
R. West, H. Paskov, J. Leskovec, C. Potts  
*TACL* — *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2(Oct):297–310, 2014
- [22] On the Feasibility of Using a Standardized Test for Evaluating a Speech-Controlled Smart Wheelchair  
J. Pineau, R. West, A. Atrash, J. Villemure, F. Routhier  
*IJICS* — *International Journal of Intelligent Control and Systems*, 16(2):121–128, 2011
- [21] Development and Validation of a Robust Speech Interface for Improved Human-Robot Interaction  
A. Atrash, R. Kaplow, J. Villemure, R. West, H. Yamani, J. Pineau  
*International Journal of Social Robotics*, 1(4):345–356, 2009

## Articles in peer-reviewed conference proceedings

- [20] Disinformation on the Web: Impact, Characteristics, and Detection of Wikipedia Hoaxes  
S. Kumar, R. West, J. Leskovec  
*Under review for WWW*, 2016
- [19] Growing Wikipedia Across Languages via Recommendation  
E. Wulczyn, R. West, J. Leskovec, L. Zia  
*Under review for WWW*, 2016
- [18] Improving Website Hyperlink Structure Using Server Logs  
A. Paranjape, R. West, J. Leskovec, L. Zia  
*WSDM* — *9th International ACM Conference on Web Search and Data Mining*, 2016
- [17] Mining Missing Hyperlinks from Human Navigation Traces: A Case Study of Wikipedia  
R. West, A. Paranjape, J. Leskovec  
*WWW* — *24th International World Wide Web Conference*, 2015
- [16] Knowledge Base Completion via Search-Based Question Answering  
R. West, E. Gabrilovich, K. Murphy, S. Sun, R. Gupta, D. Lin  
*WWW* — *23rd International World Wide Web Conference*, 2014
- [15] The Last Click: Why Users Give up Information Network Navigation  
A. Scaria, R. Philip, R. West, J. Leskovec  
*WSDM* — *7th International ACM Conference on Web Search and Data Mining*, 2014
- [14] Compressive Feature Learning  
H. Paskov, R. West, T. Hastie, J. Mitchell  
*NIPS* — *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 26*, 2013.
- [13] Here and There: Goals, Activities, and Predictions about Location from Geotagged Queries  
R. West, R. White, E. Horvitz  
*SIGIR* — *36th Annual ACM SIGIR Conference*, 2013
- [12] From Cookies to Cooks: Insights on Dietary Patterns via Analysis of Web Usage Logs  
R. West, R. White, E. Horvitz  
*WWW* — *22nd International World Wide Web Conference*, 2013
- [11] No Country for Old Members: User Lifecycle and Linguistic Change in Online Communities  
C. Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, R. West, D. Jurafsky, J. Leskovec, C. Potts  
*WWW* — *22nd International World Wide Web Conference*, 2013
- Best-Paper Award**
- [10] Drawing a Data-Driven Portrait of Wikipedia Editors  
R. West, I. Weber, C. Castillo  
*WikiSym* — *8th International Symposium on Wikis and Open Collaboration*, 2012

- [9] Automatic versus Human Navigation in Information Networks  
R. West, J. Leskovec  
[ICWSM](#) — 6th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media, 2012
- [8] Human Wayfinding in Information Networks  
R. West, J. Leskovec  
[WWW](#) — 21st International World Wide Web Conference, 2012
- [7] Automatically Suggesting Topics for Augmenting Text Documents  
R. West, D. Precup, J. Pineau  
[CIKM](#) — 19th ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, 2010
- [6] Human-Oriented Design and Initial Validation of an Intelligent Powered Wheelchair  
W. Honoré, A. Atrash, P. Boucher, R. Kaplow, S. Kelouwani, H. Nguyen, J. Villemure, R. West, F. Routhier, P. Stone, C. Dufour, J.-P. Dussault, D. Rock, P. Cohen, L. Demers, R. Forget, J. Pineau  
[RESNA Annual Conference](#), 2010
- [5] Completing Wikipedia's Hyperlink Structure through Dimensionality Reduction  
R. West, D. Precup, J. Pineau  
[CIKM](#) — 18th ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, 2009
- [4] Wikispeedia: An Online Game for Inferring Semantic Distances between Concepts  
R. West, J. Pineau, D. Precup  
[IJCAI](#) — 21st International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 2009

#### **Posters in peer-reviewed conference proceedings**

- [3] A Data-Driven Sketch of Wikipedia Editors  
R. West, I. Weber, C. Castillo  
[WWW](#) — 21st International World Wide Web Conference, 2012

#### **Articles in peer-reviewed workshop proceedings**

- [2] Towards a Standardized Test for Intelligent Wheelchairs  
J. Pineau, R. West, A. Atrash, J. Villemure, F. Routhier  
[PerMIS](#) — Workshop on Performance Metrics for Intelligent Systems, 2010

#### **Workshop proceedings edited**

- [1] *ICWSM Workshop on Wikipedia, a Social Pedia: Research Challenges and Opportunities*  
R. West, L. Zia, J. Leskovec (editors)  
[AAAI Technical Report WS-15-19](#), AAAI Press, Palo Alto, Calif., 2015